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## ABSTRACT

10       An automated method for classifying a cytological sample is provided. The  
method comprises interrogating the sample with one or more wavelengths of light to  
obtain a result, and then attaching one or more designators to the sample based on  
whether the result meets a given criterion. The method allows for rapid feedback on the  
characteristics of the sample, permitting automated designation of the sample as positive  
15   for a given characteristic, and allowing for immediate remedial actions if the sample fails  
to meet the criterion.